

## **GASTON COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT: \$13,904.00**

### **Project Identifiers:**

1. Equipment: General

### **Project Description**

The Gaston County Police Department (GCPD) proposes to use \$13,904.00 in 2023 Justice Assistance Grant funding to pursue two projects during the grant cycle.

The first project will be to purchase and install one (1) evidence drying cabinet for the department's Crime Scene Unit (\$10,080.00).

The second project will be to purchase and install one (1) ventless evidence processing hood for the department's Crime Scene Unit (\$3,824.00).

### **Project Design and Implementation**

The GCPD maintains a three-year strategic plan and reviews its stated goals and objectives each quarter, reporting quarterly progress to the Chief of Police. Each goal and/or objective is assigned to members of the department's command staff for execution and implementation, and updates are made as items are completed in a centrally stored progress report. The department addresses community concerns during a command staff meeting every three years specifically for the purpose of creating its three-year strategic plan, but does not send the plan out for community review before finalizing. Once the plan is finalized, the department posts the plan on the departmental website for public viewing, and if issues are expressed by community members, the department addresses them in a regularly scheduled command staff meeting.

The evidence drying cabinet in the first project will be used to dry evidence from crime scenes, which is especially important to dry bloody clothing collected from homicide crime scenes. The drying cabinet will replace the department's previous cabinet, manufactured in the 1990's, that recently started leaking and caused water damage in the crime scene unit.

The ventless evidence processing hood in the second project will be used to properly vent vaporized glue used by the evidence processing cabinet for processing fingerprints. The hood will replace the department's previous hood that recently stopped working. The ventless hood protects detectives from exposure to harmful fumes. The total cost of the ventless hood is \$9,254.85, but the department will match \$5,430.85 with funds from this grant to make this purchase possible.

Both pieces of equipment are vital to the processing of crime scene evidence. The GCPD's Crime Scene Unit uses this equipment routinely to, not only process evidence from its own criminal and homicide cases, but also to process evidence for other law enforcement departments in Gaston County that do not possess the necessary equipment.

### **Capabilities and Competencies**

The Gaston County Police Department was created by Legislative Act on July 1, 1957. The GCPD provides police services to the unincorporated areas of Gaston County and the incorporated areas of High Shoals and Spencer Mountain. In 1991, the Commission on Accreditation of Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) awarded accreditation status to the GCPD, making it the 190<sup>th</sup> internationally accredited police agency. The GCPD has consistently maintained its accreditation status.

The Community Policing Division is comprised of 153 sworn officers who provide police services to a community of approximately 85,000 residents, spanning an area of over 270 square miles. Officers are responsible for controlling and preventing crime through regular patrols, answering calls for service, apprehending offenders, enforcing criminal and traffic laws, reporting and investigating crimes, and working with the community to solve crime-related issues.

The GCPD received NIBRS certification from the State of North Carolina on February 20, 2020. The letter of certification is attached hereto.

**Budget**

<b><u>Item</u></b>	<b><u>Unit Price</u></b>	<b><u>Amount Needed</u></b>	<b><u>Total Cost</u></b>
Evidence Drying Cabinet	\$10,080.00	1	\$10,080.00
Ventless Evidence Processing Hood	\$3,824.00	1	\$3,824.00